provided to Bihar State Government. A total number of 30 Districts were covered under the Scheme namely Patna, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Gaya, Nawada, Aurangabad, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Singhbhum, Palamu, Ranchi, Suran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Vaishali. Champaran (East), Chamaparan (West) Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani., Saharsa, Madhupura, Purnea, Katihar, Bhagalpur, Munger, Santhalpargana. However, at present an Integrated Cereal Development Programme on Rice based Cropping systems areas (ICDP-Rice) is being implemented in the State on 75:25 funding pattern between Government of India and State in which assistance is provided to the farmers for transfer of technology through field demonstrations and training of farmers as well as incentive for critical inputs such as seed. Farm implements etc.

Consumer Rights

1704. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase awareness on consumer rights in the country particularly in the rural areas;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any concrete plan to take the consumer movement to the grassroot level for the benefit of common man;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount spent by the Union Government on enhancing the consumer awareness during each of the last three years; and

(e) the measures being taken for the speedy disposal of consumer complaints?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The Government has taken a number of measures to increase consumer awareness in the country. Such measures include preparation of audio visual material, printed material in the form of boolets, brochures, posters, etc. in the field of consumer protection for propagation of consumer rights. It is also publishing a monthly journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" which disseminates useful information to the consumers in the field of consumer awareness. The printed material as also the journal are distributed free of cost. In addition, Consumer Welfare fund has been set-up to provide financial assistance to the voluntary consumer organizations, etc. for undertaking activities in the field of consumer protection and promoting consumer movement at the grass root level, particularly in the rural areas.

(d) The amount spent by the Central Government to increase consumer awareness in the country was approximately Rs. 99 lakhs, Rs. 136 lakhs and Rs. 191 lakhs during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(e) In order to provide speedy redressal of consumer complaints and also to reduce pendency of cases in the Consumer Fora, the Central Government has commenced a scheme of one time financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the State and UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora.

[Translation]

Sewarage Treatment Plant

1705. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a sewarage treatment plant on the Ring Road near Wazirabad bridge on the river Yamuna in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred on the plant;

(c) whether the said plant is non-functional; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore along-with the details of steps being taken to make the said plant functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Sewage treatment plant based on the oxidation pond technology was set up near Wazirabad Bridge on Ring Road near Timarpur in early 70's. The treatment plant consists of 16 number of oxidation ponds with a treatment capacity of 12 million gallons per day. The plant is functional. An expenditure of Rs. 14.50 lakhs has been incurred on the operation and maintenance of this plant so far during the current financial year.

(d) Does not arise.

Pension for Old Age Persons

1706. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age persons likely to be benefited under the 'National Old Age Pension Scheme' during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) the guidelines being followed for providing old age pension;

(c) the total population of the old age persons as per 1991 census State-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to include all eligible old persons under this scheme in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the number of people benefited under the scheme during the 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(g) the fund allocated to each State/UT during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The number of persons likely to be benefited under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) during 1996-97, State-wise, is given in Statement-I.

(b) As per the guidelines on the National Social Assistance Programme, the criteria followed for providing Old age pension are :

(i) The age of the applicant (male or female) shall be 65 years or above.

(ii) The applicant must be a destitute in the sence of having little or no regular means of subsistance from his/her own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources. In order to determine the destitution, the criteria if any, currently in force in the States/UTs Govts. may also be followed. The Govt. of India reserve the right to review these criteria and suggest appropriate revised criteria.

(iii) The amount of old age pension is Rs. 75/- per month for the purpose of claiming Central assistance.

(c) The age data as per 1991 census is yet to be released by the office of the Register General India. However, total population of aged 60 as per 1981 census is at Statement-II.

(d) and (e). The coverage of beneficiaries under the NOAPS in Uttar Pradesh is as per the NSAP Guidelines. Under the Guidelines, it is assumed that 50% of the population below the poverty line in the age group of 65 years and above will qualify for old age pension under the destitute criteria laid down. Accordingly the numerical ceiling has been worked out for all States including U.P. taking into account certain parameters like poverty ratio.

(f) Does not arise since the NSAP came into effect from 15th August, 1995 only.

(g) Figures are given in Statement-III.

STATEMENT-I

Scheme-wise Ceiling of Number of Beneficiaries under Naops during 1996-97

S.No.	States/UTs	Number of Beneficiaries of NOAPS Ceilling
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4,66,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,700
3.	Assam	70,100
4.	Bihar	7,74,400
5.	Goa	2,200
6.	Gujarat	1,60,100
7.	Haryana	37,700
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11,600
9.	J & K	26,600
10.	Karnataka	3,16,200
11.	Kerala	1,44,500
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4,89,800
13.	Maharashtra	5,01,700
14.	Manipur	3,500
15.	Meghalaya	3,400
16.	Mizoram	1,400
17.	Nagaland	2,400
18.	Orissa	2,83,400
19.	Punjab	36,500
20.	Rajasthan	2,00,000
21.	Sikkim	800
22.	Tamil Nadu	3,91,900
23.	Tripura	5,300
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10,27,500
25.	West Bengal	3,53,900
26.	A and N Islands	600
27.	Chandigarh	1,300
28.	D and N Haveli	300
29.	Daman and Diu	200
30.	NCT Delhi	19,000
31.	Lakshadweep	100
32.	Pondicherry	1,500
	Total	53,35,600

STATEMENT-II

Total Population Aged upto 60+

S.No.	State/UTs	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17756,306	1,80,2,285
2.	Gujarat	9,69,639	1,05,8,938
3.	Bihar	2,434,073	2,321,565
4.	Haryana	474,637	344,390
5.	Himachal Pradesh	180,228	140,914
6.	J & K	203,065	141,500
7.	Karnataka	1,222,328	1,236,457
8.	Kerala	896,274	1,013,515
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1,637,216	1,726,473

1	2	3	4
10.	Maharashtra	1,966,718	2,042,094
11.	Manipur	42,149	41,317
12.	Meghayaia	22,261	26,909
13.	Nagaland	25,680	20,342
14.	Orissa	815,720	869,200
15.	Punjab	739,719	569,493
16.	Rajasthan	1,032,308	1,032,790
17.	Sikkim	7,598	6,282
18.	Tamil Nadu	1,596,692	1,507,962
19.	Tripura	75,358	69,372
20.	Uttar Pradesh	4,416,840	3,435,847
21.	West Bengal	1,520,731	1,508,389
22.	A and N Islands	3,153	2,286
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	16,264	13,289
24.	Chandigarh	9,932	8,224
25.	D and N Haveli	1,937	2,210
26.	Delhi	151,456	127,406
27.	Goa, Daman and Diu	31,984	41,758
28.	Lakshadweep	1,012	951
29.	Mizoram	11,270	11,563
30.	Pondicherry	20,314	20,262

STATEMENT-III

Statement regarding Allocation under NOAPS during 1996-97

S.No.	State/UTs.	Allocation
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4,194.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15.30
3.	Assam	630.90
4.	Bihar	6,969.60
5.	Goa	19.80
6.	Gujarat	1,440.90
7.	Haryana	339.30
8.	Himachal Pradesh	104.40
9.	J and K	239.40
10.	Karnataka	2,845.80
11.	Kerala	1,300.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4,408.20
13.	Maharashtra	4,515.30
14.	Manipur	31.50
15.	Meghalaya	30.60
16.	Mizoram	12.60
17.	Nagaland	21.60
18.	Orissa	2,550.60
19.	Punjab	328.50
20.	Rajasthan	1,800.00
21.	Sikkim	7.20
22.	Tamil Nadu	3,527.10
23.	Tripura	47.70
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9,247.50
25.	West Bengal	3,185.10
26.	A and N Islands	5.40
27.	Chandigarh	11.70
28.	D and N Haveli	2.70
29.	Daman and Diu	1.80
30.	NCT Delhi	171.00
31.	Lakshadweep	0.90
32.	Pondicherry	13.50
	Total	48,020.40

Forest Cover

1707. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Forest Cover Report, 1995 was presented in the State Forest Minister's Conference held recently;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether the forest cover has declined by 507 kms. from the previous assessment; and

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As per the State of Forest Report, 1995 published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the broad features are as follows :

(i) Category	Area Sq. Km	%age of the total gec. area
Dense Forest (Crown density 40% and above)	385.756	11.73
Open Forest (Crown density 10% to less than 40%)	249.311	7.58
Mangrove	4,533	0.14
Scrub Area (Tree land with less than 10% Crown Density)	60,528	1.84
Non-Forest	25,87,135	78.71
Total	32,87,263	100.00